Govt. have already been apprised of the above positions.

Expenditure on Security Forces in Jammu and Kashmir

2585 SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred on the security forces by the Central Government in Jammu and Kashmir during the year 1994, 1995 and 1996 for the maintenance of law and order the curbing militancy and the total expenditure shared by the State Government on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): It will not be in the public interest to disclose the information on the Floor of the House.

Handicapped Persons in Public Sector Undertakings

2586 KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the number of physically handicapped persons given employment in the Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years alongwith year-wise break up?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in Retail Prices of Common Drugs

2587 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news-item captioned 'Common drugs retail prices shooting up' appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated 12th November, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to bring down the prices of the common drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Ministry undertakes periodic studies to compare prices of formulations. In the latest such study it has been found that prices of 21 formulations had gone up. However, it would not be correct to say that all these are commonly used formulations.

(d) In the case of price controlled medicines, the prices are fixed as per the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. In the case of medicines outside price Control, if abnormal increases are noticed the matter is taken up with the concerned manufacturers for justification of the same.

(e) Whenever instances of price violations in price controlled formulations are noticed in the Department, action under DPCO, 1995 and Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is taken through the State Drug Controllers.

Depletion of Lakes

2588 SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the depletion of Chilka and Anshupa lakes in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to save these two famous lakes of Asia from further depletion; and

(d) the time by which the National Lake Conservation Plan is likely to be approved by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b). As per the reports of the Government of Orissa, Chilka lake is threatened due to problems of siltation, choking of the mouth and decrease in salinity regimes. This has affected changes in flora and fauna.

Anshupa lake is facing the problems of encroachment and siltation due to deforestation in the catchment area.

(c) Chilka lake is designated as one of the wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention and is also covered under the National Programme for the Conservation and Management of Wetlands. An amount of Rs. 112.30 lakh has been provided to the Government of Orissa by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests to the Government of Orissa for soil conservation in the catchment area, habitat improvement of Nalabana database creation and generating awareness under this programme. The 10th Finance Commission has recommended an amount of Rs. 27 crores to the Government of Orissa for Preservation of Chilka Lake' under Special Problem Grants. The Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Commission. Accordingly an action plan for Chilka Lake for 1996-2000, prepared by the Government of Orissa, has been approved by the Inter Ministerial Empowered Committee of the Ministry of Finance.

The State Government of Orissa have undertaken several measures in Anshupa lake for control of siltation through plantation in the catchment area, deweeding, fisheries development etc. An amount of Rs. 10.05 lakhs has been incurred by the State Government for soil conservation measures from 1990-91 to 1992-93. Cuttack District Environmental Society has been also identified as the nodal agency for undertaking different environmental activities in Anshupa lake. An amount of

Rs. 9.43 lakhs has been released to the Society by Orissa Government for activities such as deweeding, fisheries extension, soil conservation and plantation of coconut and mango trees around the lake.

(d) The scheme on National Lakes Conservation Plan has not been approved during VIII Five Year Plan.

Latur Victims

2589. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI PINAKI MISHRA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of donation received from Indian and foreign donors for rehabilitation of Latur victims;

(b) the total amount earmarked by the Central Government for rehabilitation of these victims and the total amount actually spent in this work so far; and

(c) the manner in which the Government are monitoring the utilisation of the funds meant for quake victims?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) According to information received from the Government of Maharashtra, an amount of Rs. 255.48 crores was received as donation from Indian and foreign donors for relief and rehabilitation of the victims of Latur earthquake of 1993.

(b) A Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation Programme (MEERP) is being implemented in the affected areas with a project cost of Rs. 1182 crores consisting of World Bank credit of Rs. 835 crores, Government of Maharashtra contribution of Rs. 141 crores, Government of India contribution of Rs. 59 crores and Donor contribution of Rs. 147 crores. The expenditure incurred so far on the project is Rs. 735 crores.

(c) The MEERP is being implemented in a phased manner, with well established procedures for reporting, monitoring and accounting. The programme is reviewed at the highest levels in the State Government periodically. The World Bank Teams also regularly assess the progress of the Programme and utilisation of its credit.

Punjab Militants

2590. SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are seized of reports that the extremist and militant groups in Punjab continue to nurture their links with the foreign sources for financial support;

(b) if so, the extent of foreign funds flown into the hands of the militants in Punjab; and

(c) the strength of the extremist forces alongwith their hide outs in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The interrogation of Punjab terrorists arrested during 1996 have revealed that the foreign based militants are making available funds to the militants/sympathisers/harbourers based in India. As per reports, a sum of Rs. 25.34 lakhs relating to illegal Hawala transaction has been recovered in Punjab. The strength of the extremist forces cannot be given in absolute or specific terms as their numbers keeps on fluctuating depending on their clandestine movements in and out of India.

The Government is vigilant regarding the activities of the extremists. 83 militants/sympathisers/harbourers were apprehended by the Security Forces during this year upto October, 1996. The police and enforcement authorities are also vigilant in detecting Hawala transactions by militants in Punjab.

Narcotics/Drugs Trade

2591. SHRI RAMSAGAR :
SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of narcotics/drugs seized during the last six months, State-wise;

(b) the places of their illegal trade, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the uprising trend in this illegal trade;

(d) whether the involvement of neighbouring countries has been found in this illegal trafficking;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the number of persons arrested in this regard alongwith their nationality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Statement-I is enclosed.

(b) Statement-II is enclosed.

(c) Narcotic drug trade is a clandestine activity and therefore it cannot be said definitely whether it is increasing or otherwise during any given period.

(d) and (e). By virtue of proximity to South West Asia on the Western border and Golden Triangle on the Eastern border, the two major illicit opiates producing region, India is highly vulnerable to drug trafficking.

(f) Statement-III is enclosed.